

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing image processing on captured data of an image of a desired subject, comprising:
  - an image processing part[[]], including:
    - a buffer memory for data storage;
    - an image processing unit for performing a predetermined process on said captured data to obtain image data, and writing said image data to said buffer memory; and
    - a compression unit for compressing said image data read from said buffer memory,
  - wherein said buffer memory is connected to receive only said image data from said image processing unit; and
  - a storage unit provided outside said image processing part.
2. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1,
  - wherein said buffer memory includes a first buffer memory and a second buffer memory,
  - said image processing apparatus further comprising:
    - a control unit being operative in such a manner that while said image processing unit writes said image data either to said first buffer memory or to said second buffer memory, said compression unit selectively reads image data previously stored either in said first buffer memory or in said second buffer memory experiencing no writing of said image data by said image processing unit.
3. (Withdrawn) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said buffer memory includes two buffer memories,  
said image processing apparatus further comprising:  
a control unit for reading and writing said image data using said two buffer memories  
as one continuous buffer memory,  
wherein after said image data in predetermined amount is written to said continuous  
buffer memory, said image processing unit suspends writing until receipt of a control signal,  
and  
wherein after said image data is read from said continuous buffer memory, said  
compression unit sends said control signal to said image processing unit.

4. (Withdrawn) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising:

an image display processing unit for converting said image data into data for image  
display, said image data being written to said buffer memory by said image processing unit,  
whereby said data for image display is reproduced on a display device.

5. (Withdrawn) The image processing apparatus according to claim 4,  
wherein said buffer memory includes a first buffer memory and a second buffer  
memory,

said image processing apparatus further comprising:

a control unit being operative in such a manner that while said image processing unit  
writes said image data either to said first buffer memory or to said second buffer memory,  
said image display processing unit selectively reads image data previously stored either in  
said first buffer memory or in said second buffer memory experiencing no writing of said  
image data by said image processing unit.

6. (Withdrawn) The image processing apparatus according to claim 4,  
wherein said buffer memory includes two buffer memories,  
said image processing apparatus further comprising:  
a control unit for reading and writing said image data using said two buffer memories  
as one continuous buffer memory,  
wherein after said image data in predetermined amount is written to said continuous  
buffer memory, said image processing unit suspends writing until receipt of a control signal,  
and  
wherein after said image data is read from said continuous buffer memory, said image  
display processing unit sends said control signal to said image processing unit.

7. (Withdrawn) The image processing apparatus according to claim 4,  
wherein said buffer memory includes a first buffer memory and a second buffer  
memory, and  
wherein said image processing unit includes:  
an output unit for performing a predetermined process on said captured data, and  
outputting the processed captured data as data for image display,  
said image processing apparatus further comprising:  
a control unit being operative in such a manner that while said image processing unit  
writes said data for image display either to said first buffer memory or to said second buffer  
memory, said image display processing unit selectively reads data for image display  
previously stored either in said first buffer memory or in said second buffer memory  
experiencing no writing of said image data by said image processing unit.

8. (Withdrawn) The image processing apparatus according to claim 4,  
wherein said buffer memory includes two buffer memories, and  
wherein said image processing unit includes an output unit for performing a  
predetermined process on said captured data, and outputting the processed captured data as  
data for image display,  
said image processing apparatus further comprising:  
a control unit for reading and writing said image data using said two buffer memories  
as one continuous buffer memory,  
wherein after said data for image display in predetermined amount is written to said  
continuous buffer memory, said image processing unit suspends writing until receipt of a  
control signal, and  
wherein after said data for image display is read from said continuous buffer memory,  
said image display processing unit sends said control signal to said image processing unit.

9. (Withdrawn) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising:  
an image display processing unit for converting said image data into data for image  
display, said image data being written to said buffer memory by said image processing unit,  
whereby said data for image display is reproduced on an electronic viewfinder.

10. (Withdrawn) An image processing apparatus for performing image processing on  
captured data of an image of a desired subject, comprising:  
a storage unit provided outside an image processing part, said storage unit storing said  
captured data; and  
said image processing part, including:

an image processing unit for dividing said captured data stored in said storage unit into two or more pieces of regional data in more than one column and in more than one row, performing a predetermined process on said two or more pieces of regional data for conversion into image data, and writing said image data to said storage unit, said two or more pieces of regional data being sequentially read from the first line and from the first column by means of DMA transmission; and

a compression unit for sequentially reading said two or more pieces of regional data written to said storage unit by said image processing unit, and compressing said two or more regional data.

11. (Withdrawn) An image processing apparatus for performing image processing on captured data of an image of a desired subject, comprising:

a storage unit provided outside an image processing part, said storage unit storing said captured data; and

said image processing part, including:

a buffer memory for storing image data;

an image processing unit for dividing said captured data stored in said storage unit into two or more pieces of regional data in more than one column and in more than one row, performing a predetermined process on said two or more pieces of regional data for conversion into image data, and writing said image data to said buffer memory, said two or more pieces of regional data being sequentially read from the first line and from the first column; and

a compression unit for sequentially reading said two or more pieces of regional data written to said buffer memory by said image processing unit, and compressing said two or more regional data.

12. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:  
said buffer memory having an input and an output, said input connected to receive only said image data from said image processing unit and said output connected to output said image data only to said compression unit.

13. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:  
a first switching unit connected between said image processing unit and said buffer memory; and  
a second switching unit connected between said compression unit and said buffer memory.

14. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said buffer memory comprises first and second buffer memories connected in parallel.

15. (New) An image processing apparatus for performing image processing on captured data of an image of a desired subject, comprising:  
an image processing part, including:  
first and second buffer memories connected in parallel for data storage;  
an image processing unit for performing a predetermined process on said captured data to obtain image data, and alternately writing said image data to said first and second buffer memories; and  
a compression unit for compressing said image data alternately read from said first and second buffer memories.

16. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 15, comprising:  
a first switching unit connected between said image processing unit and said first and second buffer memories; and  
a second switching unit connected between said compression unit and said first and second buffer memories.

17. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 15, comprising:  
said first and second buffer memories connected to receive only said processed image data from image processing unit.

18. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 15, comprising:  
a storage unit externally connected to said image processing part.